

To the HARTLEY WINTNEY
Rural District Council.

.....
❖ ANNUAL REPORT ❖

Of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ending the
31st December, 1897.

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GENTLEMEN,

In view of the alarming epidemics of Enteric Fever one of your chief duties is to see that a pure water supply is provided and kept up. Now I have no hesitation in saying that a large percentage of the well water in this Union is more or less mixed up with surface water, which in its turn is liable to contamination in many ways. I would impress upon you, with all the authority I am capable of, the paramount importance of this matter, and the advisability of giving the Inspectors explicit instructions. You have got public water supplies in Blackwater, Hawley, and Yateley, and I advise that in these localities you establish public water fountains.

I am far from hinting that you set about providing public water supplies for every Town and small Village. For instance I analyzed a large number of samples of water from the deep wells in the chalk at Odiham and was agreeably surprised to find what an excellent and, except in a very few instances, water of high quality was provided by these wells.

There should be a better system of drainage in Odiham and in Crondall. At present no one knows whether a drain is a water drain, a sewer, or what not, and the whole arrangements contain the elements of danger.

The drains and sewers in Yateley Village are being improved.

You should obtain some Urban powers for Fleet, Cove, and Hawley, so as to regulate new buildings, remove excreta, &c. Since there is no prospect of a Sewerage system for Blackwater the least that can be done is to supply a suitable cart for the removal of filth. In a few cottages there are no gardens to put it on, and in others the ground is sewage sick. I could put my finger on spots such as these, where, although there may not have been Typhoid Fever or other acute illness, yet, in my opinion, there is a lowering of vitality and a general cachexia in the people, especially among the women and children, who are most at home.

Remember that where soil is allowed to remain persistently foul, it is only necessary to have the germs of disease (whether air borne or water borne) find a lodgment in it to create disease and disaster. This was clearly demonstrated by the Medical Officer to the Local Government Board in his last report.

The District has suffered from slight recurrences of Scarlet Fever, which have been met and curtailed in the way adopted in this Union for many years past. Schools were closed as little as possible. The more I see of it the less I am disposed to advise school closing except under exceptional circumstances.

Tables A and B give fairly full information as to deaths and infectious sickness. The death rate for the year corrected to population is 12.76, or about 12½. The birth rate being 26.98, or nearly 27. You will find by the next census that the population will have increased more than is apprehended. This is another argument in favour of your putting your foot down and ordering that certain sanitary improvements shall be carried out. You are the authority, and the only authority armed with any power worth the name over these matters, and I beg you not to delegate your duties to other and smaller bodies. There is quite enough decentralization already, as is being found out, and with any more the thing becomes quite too petty.

I append the Inspectors' Reports, and, as you are aware, a copy of this must go to the Local Government Board and to the County Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. J. DENNY,

Medical Officer of Health.

BLACKWATER, HANTS.

March, 1898.

FLEET, WINCHFELD,
5th March, 1898.

C. J. DENNY, Esq.
Medical Officer of Health,
HARTLEY WINTNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

DEAR SIR,

I beg to hand you an account of the work done during the year 1897 in the various Parishes for which I am Inspector of Nuisances.

We cleaned out the River Blackwater from Blackwater Bridge to Farnborough boundary, and the Easthampstead Council cleaned it out from Blackwater Bridge to Eversley boundary. The river is in a purer and better condition than I have ever known it.

Houses disinfected after the existence of Infectious Disease	16
Cases of overcrowding abated	2
New Privies built on old premises	7
Old Privies repaired and rebuilt	19
Privies cleaned out	21
Sink Drains repaired and cleaned out	13
Foul Ditches cleaned out	24
Ordinary Nuisances, dung heaps, switch holes, accumulations of rubbish, vegetables, &c.	76
New Cesspits built	7
Filthy Cesspits cleaned out	18
New Wells on old premises	10
Old Wells cleaned out	12
Houses unfit for habitation (Housing of Working Classes Act) closed	2
Ditto ditto ditto repaired	1
Notice not attended to.—House purchased by War Department ..	1
Dilapidated and filthy houses repaired and cleansed	7
New Houses built with proper water supply	46
Dairies and Cowstalls inspected twice during the year	47

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. SISTERTON,
Sanitary Inspector.

HARTLEY WINTNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To C. J. DENNY, Esq.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SIR,

I beg to hand you an account of the work done during the year 1897, in the parishes of Odiham, Greywell, Long Sutton, South Warnborough, Rotherwick, Dogmersfield, and Winchfield.

Houses disinfected	8
Houses cleansed	4
Overcrowding abated	3
Drains repaired	5
Drains trapped	14
Drains into road cut off	7
Drains into streams cut off	7
Sink Drains repaired	18
Cesspits cleaned out	11
Cesspits re-covered	7
Privies cleansed	34
Dilapidated Privies repaired	5
Filthy heaps removed	10
Foul Ditches cleaned	6
Foul Ditches filled in	14
Pigstyes cleaned out	4
Settling Ponds cleaned out	2
Samples of Water taken	37
Wells cleaned out	7
Water supply renewed	5
Dairies inspected	40
Cowsheds repaired	5

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

STANLEY BUTLER,
Sanitary Inspector.

ODIHAM,
March, 1898.

1. *Am. ...*
2. *Am. ...*